



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

As the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) continues its review process, I urge you to consider the many assets that North Carolina offers. Should your Commission decide to make changes to the Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia, I urge you to consider conducting a formal site visit to see the excellent facilities we have at the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point in North Carolina. MCAS Cherry Point would be an ideal choice to locate at least a portion of the squadrons from Oceana because of the top-notch training areas and proximity to the Navy fleet.

We have worked hard to make Cherry Point a premier basing option for the Marine Corps and Navy. North Carolina has avoided the encroachment problems that exist at Oceana, and Cherry Point has the capacity to accept additional aircraft. In fact, Cherry Point was prepared to accept 12 squadrons of Marine F18s as a result of base realignment recommendations in 1993. Millions of dollars were spent on preparation for the aircraft, and those assets remain in place. If the BRAC Commission decides to realign Oceana's assets, I urge you to consider relocating at least four Oceana squadrons of F18 aircraft directly to Cherry Point.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and thank you for the BRAC Commission's work on behalf of our nation.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Easley".

Michael F. Easley, Governor

MFE/ets

